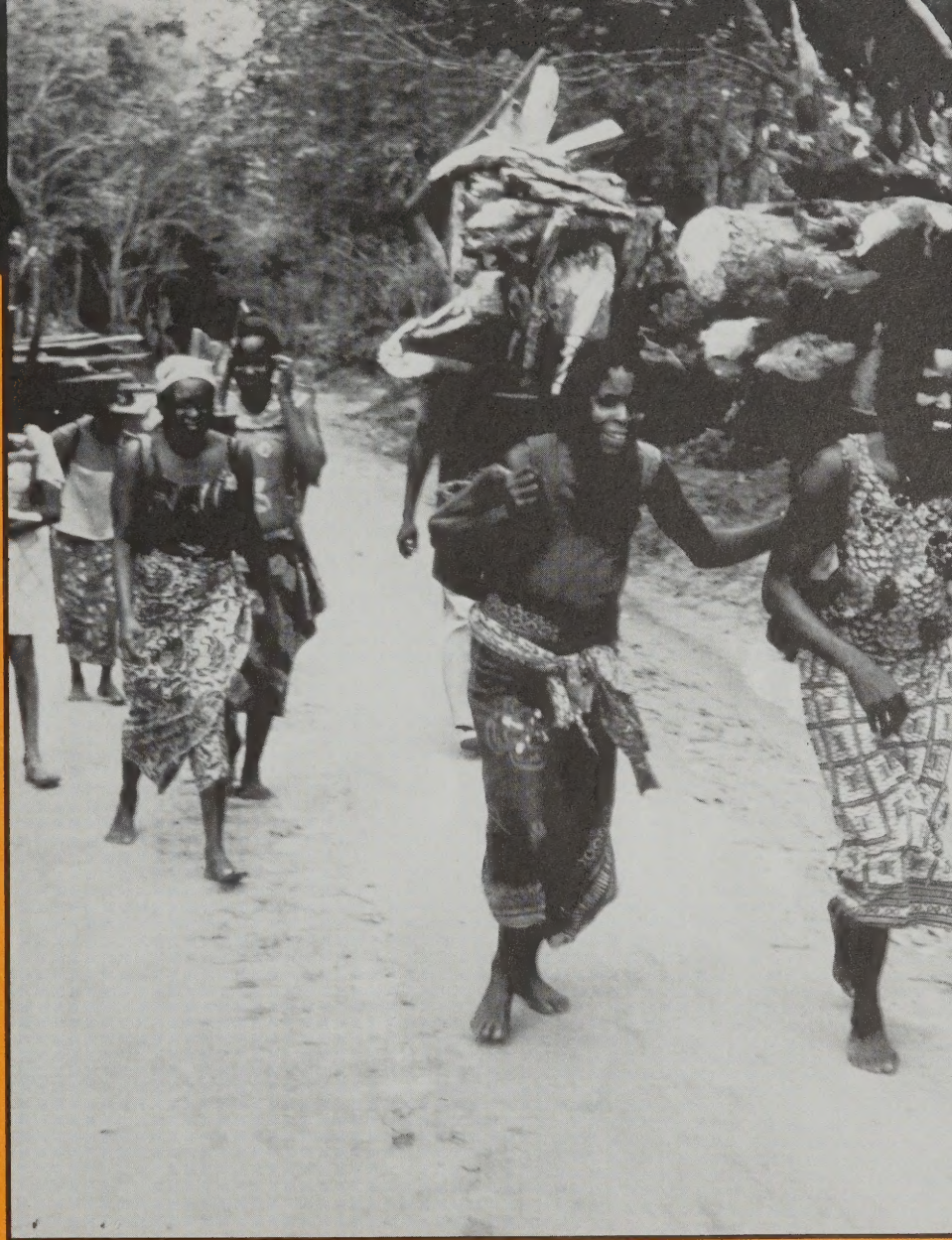
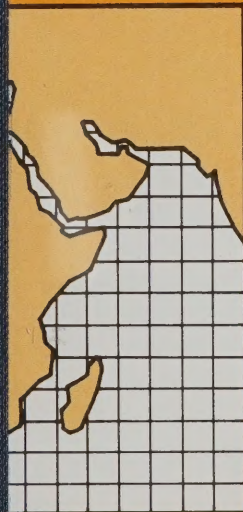


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Country Profile

Zaire

Canada

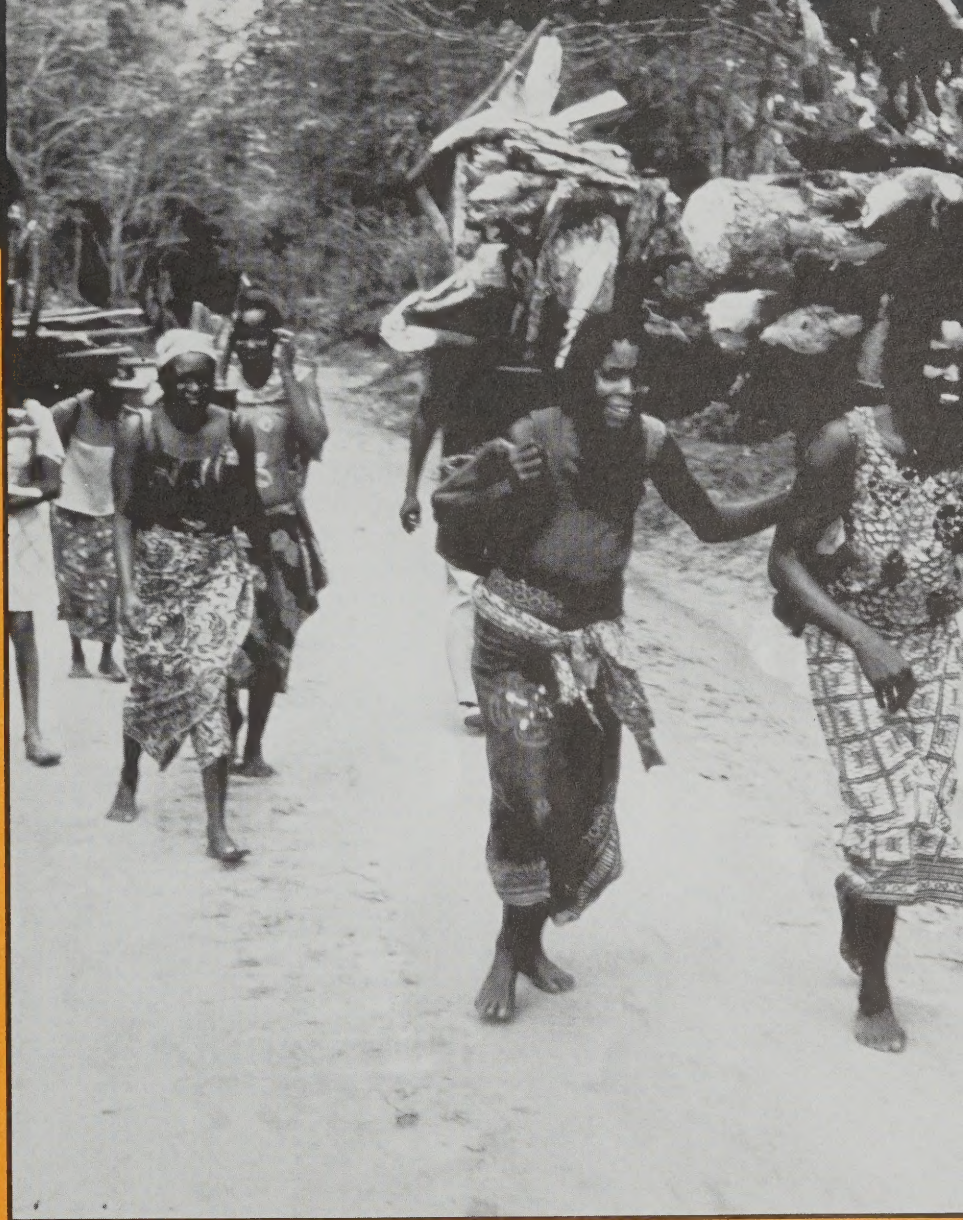
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Country Profile

Zaire

Canada



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COUNTRY PROFILE

Official name	Republic of Zaire
Capital	Kinshasa
Topography	large, flat-bottomed basic of lakes and swamps, bound by hills except in the west
Climate	equatorial in the centre; tropical in north and south
Principal crops	corn, tapioca, rice, peanuts, vegetable oils, sugar cane
Resources	mining: diamonds, gold, copper, cobalt, uranium, zinc
Official language	French
Other languages spoken	Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba, Kiswahili
Ethnic groups	Bantu, semi-bantu, Nilotic, Sudanese and Pygmy, several hundred tribes
Religions	Catholicism, Animism
Date of independence	June 30, 1960
Date of constitution	June 24, 1967

COMPARATIVE DATA

	Zaire	Canada
Area	2,345,409 km ²	9,976,000 km ²
Population (1983)	29.7 million	24.9 million
Population density	10 persons/km ²	2.4 persons/km ²
Urbanization	38%	75%
Ave. annual growth rate in population (1973-83)	2.5%	1.2%
Life expectancy at birth	51 years	76 years
Infant mortality (1983)	106/1000 live births	9/1000
Daily per capita calorie supply as % of requirement	98%	129%
Adult literacy rate	54.5%	99%
Enrolment in primary school as % of age group		
total	90%	104%
boys	104%	105%
girls	75%	103%
% of labour force in:		
agriculture	75%	5%
industry	13%	29%
services	12%	66%
% of population under 15	44.6%	23.2%
GNP per capita (1983 US\$)	\$170	\$12,310
Ave. annual growth rate of GNP (1965-1983)	1.3%	2.5%
Ave. annual inflation rate (1973-83)	48.2%	9.4%
External public debt as % of GNP	91.5%	1.35%
Debt service as % of GNP	2.9%	4.96%
Current account balance (1983 US\$)	\$559	\$1380
Principal exports	copper, cobalt, diamonds	

Principal imports	primary materials, semi-finished goods, industrial machinery, energy, food products
Principal commercial partners	Belgium, France
Exports to Canada	coffee, tea, copper and alloys
Imports from Canada	fishing products, other food products, paper, mining machinery, pharmaceutical products, aluminum and alloys

Source: World Development Report, 1985, World Bank.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Retrospective of the Canadian Assistance Program

Relations between Canada and Zaire began in colonial times. Already by 1946, Canada was importing plywood from the Belgian Congo; and, at the beginning of the 1950s, Canada opened a consulate in Leopoldville, its first in Francophone Africa. Since independence, Canadian religious communities took over the Belgian Catholic missions. During the troubled period from 1960 to 1965, Canada participated in the United Nations security force there.

CIDA's bilateral assistance program in Zaire began in 1964. In 1970, the country became a country of concentration, benefiting from a multi-year program of cooperation. Bilateral expenses totalled \$122.5 million by April of 1985. Excluding food aid, the sectors of concentration for bilateral expenditures since 1976-77 were: forestry (44.3%); rural development (16.2%); and institutional support (26.5%).

Activities by other programs were also important, particularly those of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), institutional cooperation and development services (ICDS) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). From 1979 to 1984, there were 105 NGO projects totalling \$8.3 million. Of this number, 20 per cent were concentrated in the northeast of the country. Further, a country focus project administered by a non-governmental organization (NGO) known as Bunia complementing a bilateral program in stock farming has just been completed. ICDS supported six projects from 1980 to 1984, spending a total of \$750,000, principally in the development of credit unions and savings cooperatives in the Kivu region, as well as a program of support in rural health and support to stock breeders. The IDRC, for its part, financed sixteen projects from 1971 to 1982, totalling \$1.5 million.

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

The bilateral program continues to be the major channel for CIDA's aid program in order to best address the economic, social and political difficulties confronting Zaire. The program has three objectives: to develop a capability in management and control in Zaire; to develop major economic activities other than the mining sector, and to prioritize projects having an impact on the well-being of the population. The principal sectors of intervention are agriculture, forestry and institutional support.

Agriculture

Approximately three quarters of the population of Zaire depends on agriculture for the main source of income. However, agriculture only contributes some 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product of the country. In any case, Zaire is the only country in Africa where agricultural production has increased over the last ten years. A new agricultural strategy was developed in the plan for agricultural revival.

The principal subsistence crops are tapioca, corn, rice and plantains. In rural areas, either production is increased or commercial activity is decreased in order to meet growing demand, but these solutions are not in the best interests of the urban areas. With a rapid growth in the population comes a growth in problems: deterioration in transportation, problems in distribution, and above all, a marked increase in imports of food products and in malnutrition.

The main export crops come from plantations of coffee, palm trees, cocoa, rubber, tea, and, lesser in importance, cotton and tobacco. These crops experience the same problems of transport and distribution as subsistence crops. Some products, a large portion of which would normally have been exported, such as palm oil and cotton, are not sufficient to meet the demands of internal consumption.

For some years, CIDA has concentrated on rural development, focussing on applied research and stock breeding. This program has been most notable in the northeast of the country. Current projects include:

- a Centre for the Improvement and Adaptation of Seeds (CAPSA); this project of \$7.6 million will facilitate the increase in agricultural productivity in the north (KIVU) through the production and distribution of improved seeds, trials of different varieties, studies and research into systems of production. The project will also involve the support for the administrative systems and physical network of CAPSA.
- a community development program whereby technical and financial assistance is provided to community projects in response to the economic and social priorities of the local populations. The total cost of this project is \$4,595,000.
- technical assistance to departments: this project of \$3.2 million involves the provision of Canadian experts to the departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism.
- support to the Cooperative Association of Stock Breeders of Nord-Kivu (ACOGENOKI). This country focus project, supported by a budget of \$2.6 million dollars, is administered by the Société internationale de développement Desjardins. It is promoting the development of autonomy in Nord-Kivu by support for the cooperative association and the increase of livestock. The project began in 1984 and comprises four aspects: technical assistance, support for the development of the associations, studies and training and public information.
- a line of credit (LOC) for veterinary medicine. This LOC of \$5 million to ACOGENOKI and to the service for the production and health of animals of Nord-Kivu will provide veterinary inputs to regional stockbreeders and ensure supplies for vaccination campaigns.
- stock breeding in Ituri - Phase II. This project, in which Canada is participating with France and the World Bank, is being supported by \$15 million in Canadian contributions. Its aim is to promote the development of stock breeding in Ituri in order to improve the income of the farmers in the region. The main activities in this Phase include the establishment of structures of support to rural cooperative institutions, the provision of veterinary products and the management of the Bunai abattoir.

- a Centre for the Commercialization of agricultural products in the northeast region. This project, the budget for which is \$4.6 million, was approved at the end of 1984, and began operations within the next 18 months, aims to reduce the volume of perishable products of Nord-Kivu produced in other regions of the country.
- food aid. In 1984-85, \$7 million was disbursed to send dried and salted fish and preserved herring to Zaire. Canadian food aid aims to stabilize the prices of food products destined to the disadvantaged in urban populations, to reduce the pressure on the balance of payments and to convert Canadian-Zairois counterpart funds into food.

Forestry

Zaire possesses the largest forest in Africa: its 125 million hectares cover 48 per cent of the country's area. The forest will become an important sector for Zaire within the next ten years according to the most optimistic scenario, or the next twenty years, according to the most pessimistic scenario. Meanwhile, Zairois must prepare themselves to manage the development of the immense riches which they hold. The performance of the forestry industry has improved notably since 1977, when a new parapublic enterprise, using modern material, began operations. At the same time, the oldest forestry development societies made serious efforts to modernize their factories and their technologies.

The Canadian forestry program in Zaire focuses on four main points: processing and value-added manufacturing; familiarization with and management of the forest stocks; recycling of forest by-products; training of local human resources, such as engineers and manpower specialists. Support for the Department of the Environment is also stressed.

Active for 14 years, and, for all intents and purposes, the only donor in the forestry sector, Canada enjoys a good reputation in this area. Concentration in the forestry sector was made official in 1976, and since then, many wide-ranging projects, valued at \$29.7 million over the 1976-1984 period, have gotten under way. Current projects include:

- FORESCOM II - This project, funded by a \$15 million budget, began in February 1985. It follows, consolidates and rationalizes a first phase of intervention by the Société d'Etat FORESCOM which is involved in the development, processing and commercialization of wood. The key is to achieve economic self-sufficiency permitting the privatization of the society by 1990 by virtue of a program of investment.
- SPIAF II - This project of \$11,050,000 aims to consolidate support to the Permanent Service for Inventory and Forest Management of Zaire (Service permanent d'inventaire et d'aménagement forestiers - SPIAF). As a result of technical assistance and material support, SPIAF has been able to carry out forestry resource management on a national level as well as offering its services to private firms to utilize the development inventories.
- Training of forestry engineers - The goal of this project, to which Canada is contributing \$1.7 million, is to increase Zairean capability in the forestry sector, both in terms of quantity and quality. Over 20 scholarships in forestry at the University of Laval have already

been awarded. Begun in 1979, the present phase will end in 1987.

- Centre for the adaptation of energy from wood sources - This project, which is budgetted at \$500,000, aims to increase the benefits the population can draw from wood for the satisfaction of their energy requirements. The centre gathers and diffuses information related to this area and provides advice and technical assistance to local initiatives, principally in matters related to charcoal. The project began in 1983.
- Support to forest management - This project has a budget of \$6.4 million. It provides and consolidates technical assistance to the Department of the Environment. Its goal is to ensure the rational development of forestry resources by participating in their development and by a greater capacity for the management of forestry capital through technical, financial, human resource and logistical planning.

Institutional Support

Major institutional support is being provided to the Departments of Agriculture and Environment as well as to small and medium-sized businesses. A newly-structured development study group aims to maximize the impact of the program through the improvement of the stages of definition, conception, planning, follow-up and evaluation of projects, with particular attention to the Zairean context. These programs include:

- technical assistance to the Departments of Agriculture and Environment - (1978-1985 - \$3.2 million): provision of Canadian experts acting as consultants for their Zairean colleagues now serving in positions of responsibility in the Department of Agriculture (3 Canadians), the Environment (2) and an administrative and technical advisor.
- support to small and medium-sized business (1982-1987 - \$7.1 million): financial and technical support through the provision of a Canadian expert working in the Finance and Development Society of Zaire, which allocates loans to small and medium-sized businesses working in the agricultural and forestry sectors in Upper Zaire. Provision of Canadian equipment to businesses wishing to modernize, restructure or expand is also included.
- Study group on development (\$1,816,000): this project aims to maximize the impact of the programs of cooperation between Canada and Zaire. This team is composed of specialists in rural development, forestry resources, economics, management and logistics.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Over the last five years, 105 projects were administered by non-governmental organizations working in Zaire. The main sectors of intervention were health, agriculture, water supply, community development and literacy. NGOs play an important role, particularly in rural development and in their taking over a number of activities run by local and religious groups.

Institutional Cooperation and Development Services

The Institutional Cooperation and Development Services Division (ICDS) of CIDA has enabled the credit unions of the Société internationale de développement Desjardins to increase their programs of development in Zaire over the last 12 years. Three regional unions have been created, incorporating 74 credit unions and about 20,000 members.

In 1980-81, this program also supported the recruitment of 11 cooperants and volunteers through World University Service of Canada and the Centre d'études et de coopération internationale.

Finally, the program enabled the reopening of the Nioki Hospital with the collaboration of the University of Sherbrooke.

Other Organizations

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is participating in three projects in the area of technical education and toxicity research in tapioca. From 1971 to 1982, the IDRC financed 16 projects for a total of \$1.5 million.

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

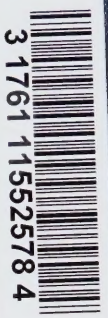
Canada also actively supports the efforts of various organisms of the United Nations involved in the development of Zaire, through the Multilateral Programs Branch of CIDA. Notable among these multilateral organizations are the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the World Health Organization.

The World Bank is among the first rank of international development institutions not only because of its size but also by the breadth of its operations. For the fiscal year 1983-84, Canada's contributions to the World Bank group rose to \$178.8 million. The World Bank's loans are mainly approved in the sectors of agriculture, rural development, energy and transportation.

The African Development Bank is one of the principal regional financial institutions in Africa. Canada is one of the 23 new non-regional members, with 3.2 per cent of the subscribed capital.

In 1981-82, Canada contributed \$1.94 million to the World Health Organization for its tropical disease research programs.

Finally, it is important to note Canada's participation in support of refugees in Zaire through the programs of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



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